



Diocesan Convention Summary

March 13, 2009

The Bishop's Address:

The focal point for this year's Diocesan Convention was the opening address by Bp. Lawrence. He observed how he had initially inherited the analogy of a NASCAR race, with Bp. Salmon jumping out of the diocesan 'car' and he immediately jumping in and roaring full speed down the road (which put him in mind of a saying by Mario Andretti, "If you have things under control, you aren't going fast enough.").

Now, having had a year to look over the Diocese and his place within it, the Bishop suggested the first question to be answered is this: What should a diocese do? Or, more to the point, what is God calling the Diocese of South Carolina to do at this time? The Bishop offered the following Vision as our future together:

"Making Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age"

There are three primary components to pursuing that goal:

First... The Good News of Christ is non-negotiable. By God's grace we will stand boldly for that cause, proclaiming it in Word and Sacraments. Doing so will present us with some obvious and immediate challenges.

- The need to be planting new churches.
- The scarcity of young adults (ages 22-34) in our parishes.
- The lack of growth in our African American congregations.
- Needed expansion and renovation for Camp St. Christopher.
- Development of Post-Ordination and New Rector Training for our ordained leaders.

Second... We need to be linking to the Universal Church. We can sit on the sidelines and let others shape our future for us, or get involved. To embrace our future, we will begin developing missional relationships with Provinces and Dioceses throughout the Anglican Communion. As a consequence, the World Mission Committee will be renamed the Anglican Communion Development Committee and charged with the task of allocating the Alternative Mission funds of the Diocese to these ends.

Third... We will also continue to differentiate ourselves from those actions and policies of The Episcopal Church that contradict the first two components of our vision. We have not yet been released from our role as a witness to The Episcopal Church, for which we have been providentially placed.

As a metaphor for how we balance these three components, the Bishop suggested a motorcycle with a side-car. The front wheel represents the biblical mandate. That is what guides and directs everything. The rear wheel is the global mandate, moving us forward into our future. Our work of differentiation is the side-car. It is important, but not essential to our progress and future.

Those wishing to see the entirety of the Bishop's address are commended to the Diocesan website:
www.dioceseofsc.org

Election Results:

The following members of Resurrection were elected to Diocesan office at this Convention:

- Gary McMeekin - to Diocesan Council (analogous to a Vestry for the Diocese)
- Steve Brunson - to the Trustees of the Diocese (responsible for oversight of trust funds)
- Libby Lewis - to represent the Diocese as a Trustee of the University of the South at Sewanee.

Resolutions passed at Convention:**R-1** *Subject: Proposed Anglican Covenant*

Endorsed the adoption by The Episcopal Church of the Proposed Anglican Covenant. Also requests the Anglican Communion explicitly authorize individual diocese to do so, and asserted the authority of the Diocese of South Carolina to so freely adopt the final Covenant.

R-2 *Subject: A Resolution on the Uniqueness of Christ*

The Diocese recommits itself to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ and to share that faith sensitively with people of all faiths.

R-4 *Subject: Withholding Consent to Election of a Bishop in Northern Michigan*

Significant questions, based on Rev. Kevin Thew Forrester's own writing, exist regarding his belief in the Doctrine of the Trinity, which a bishop is sworn to uphold. The resolution recommends our own Bishop and Standing Committee withhold its consent to his consecration and strongly encourages other bishops and standing committee to carefully study his public proclamations.

Those wishing to see the entirety of the resolutions passed can find them on the Diocesan website:

www.dioceseofsc.org